1970s- In the 1970s one of the songs by Mohamed Wardi (1931–) was banned by the government of President Gaafar Nimeiri (1969–85). It commemorated the October 1964 uprising that overthrew Lieutenant General Ibrahim Abboud (ruled 1958–64), independent Sudan’s first military ruler. The singer was imprisoned in the 1970s and 1980s. In the 1990s he went into self-imposed exile.

[1979]– Poet Hasim Sidiq El-Malik, whose poems, ostensibly set in ancient history, were in part allegories of contemporary Sudan, was imprisoned.

1979 In August or September, six lecturers working at the Institute of Music and Drama in the capital Khartoum, including lecturer in drama and art history Fatah el Rahman Abdel Aziz, were dismissed after they refused to organize a special concert for Nimeiri during the busy examination period.

1979–85 In [November] 1979, history lecturer at Khartoum University Mohamed Murad el-Hag was detained during antigovernment demonstrations and riots. In May 1980 he and four others were tried before a security court on charges of membership in the illegal Sudan Communist Party, found guilty, and sentenced to six months’ imprisonment. Although due for release because the sentence began at the time of their arrest, they were immediately rearrested. In April 1982 el-Hag was transported from Kober Prison to Port Sudan prison. He was released after 6 April 1985, when Nimeiri’s government was overthrown.

[1985]– In [1985] schoolteacher Suleiman Mohamed Soail had opened a kiosk to sell newspapers and magazines while doing research in social history. He presented a paper entitled The Ideological Origins of the Mahdist Revolution to the centenary conference of the Mahdist Revolution (1885) organized by the Khartoum University history department. He was dismissed and detained. While in detention, he reportedly taught history to his fellow prisoners. He was allegedly tortured under President Omar Hassan al-Bashir’s rule (1989–).

1988– In 1988 the minister of culture and information, Abdallah Mohamed Ahmed, ordered the pharaonic statues in the National Museum to be clothed because he considered their nudity to be offensive. He required the removal of all Christian relics from the museum on the grounds that only the Islamic heritage counted as authentic history. In 1990, serving as the education minister, he dismissed the National Museum’s senior staff, who reportedly had “offended” him in 1988. They included three prominent archeologists: Osama Abdel Rahman al-Nur, director-general of the Department of Antiquities and National Museums, Mohamed Hassan Basha, the museum’s assistant director, and Ali Osman Mohammed Salihi, associate professor of Nubian archeology at Khartoum University. In May 1990 the first and the second were arrested and held at Kober Prison.

1989 In November Farouq Mohamed Ibrahim al-Nur, a biology lecturer at the Khartoum University faculty of science, was arrested, kept in a secret interrogation center for about twelve days, and reportedly
tortured before being transferred to Kober Prison. He was questioned about his teaching of the Darwinian theory of evolution, which was considered incompatible with Islam by fundamentalist security officials. The torture was an attempt to force him to recant his views.

1990s In the early 1990s, students reportedly received a two months’ forced training in the Popular Defense Force Camps before entering the university. The curriculum included listening to extensive lectures on Islamic history.

Also see Egypt (1954–: Shalabi).

Sources
Codesria, Bulletin, 1/91: 11.